

CLASSIFICATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

East Germany

SUBJECT

Production Difficulties in East German
Liquid Fuel FactoriesPLACE
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1. The coincidence of faulty planning and the present cold wave in Germany has caused serious disturbances in East German factories producing liquid fuels. Most of these enterprises have entirely exhausted their coal supply. The coal reserves which, according to plan, the plants were to have on hand, were distributed to the civilian population after the June 1953 riots on the strength of a decree of the Council of Ministers. No new supplies were provided.
2. As a result of the cold and the lack of coal, the pipe lines of many plants have broken. Coal could not be mined in the normal way during January 1954 because the ground was frozen to such a degree that mining with dredges was impossible. In order to alleviate the situation as much as possible, the Espenhain and Boehlen enterprises on 2 February 1954 were ordered by the Ministry for Heavy Industry to mine lignite with the aid of explosives. The Ministry for Heavy Industry at the same time gave the order that the Herrenleite plant is to stop production as long as the cold wave lasts and to use its coal for heating purposes only. On 2 February 1954, VEB Schmierfettfabrik Brandenburg stopped production as a result of the cold. VEB Teerwerk Erkner stopped production one day later. On 1 February 1954, the Schwarzhilde enterprise announced that it would be obliged to stop production within a few days. On 3 February 1954, the Herrenleite factory reported that it had coal supplies for only three days.

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